(c) and (d) A National Commission has been constituted to recommend measures for welfare of socially and economically backward sections amongst religious and linguistic minorities including reservation in education and Government employment. The Commission has begun its work on 21st March, 2005.

Creation of corpus for physically challenged persons

4135. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has ordered Government for creation of Rs. 723 crores corpus for the physically challenged persons from the excess amount released by Government by way of rounding off the interest tax and interest by the banks and other financial institutions from the borrowers for the last several years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action that has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in CA Nos. 4655 and 5218 of 2000 decided on 16.4.2004 that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) effect recoveries of all the excess amounts realized by the Union of India by way of interest tax and interest by the banks and other financial institutions and create corpus of such fund for the benefit of the disadvantaged people covered by Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 and the National Trust Act, 1999. It has been estimated that the banks had collected annually a sum of Rs. 723.79 crores by way of resorting to rounding up of the incidence of interest tax. The Court while passing the directions has requested the C&AG to manage the trust as Chairman with Finance Secretary and Law Secretary of Union of India as ex-officio members. The appellants and other banks concerned were also directed to contribute Rs. 50 lakhs to the fund so created. The C&AG has filed an application dated 17.8.2004 in the Supreme Court seeking modification of the order dated 16.4.2004 as they have difficulties in managing the corpus fund.